

directly for the purpose of constructing an alcohol plant money from the general fund. That would be preferable as far as I am concerned to the present system. I am not satisfied and I think that many members of this body, and I have talked with a lot of them and particularly the members of the Revenue Committee and Senator Warner, that the exemption is doing that which we really wanted it to do, that is to keep the price of gasohol or ethanol blended fuels lower than or equivalent to the price of unleaded gasoline. Last month I noticed the average price of various classes of fuels across the State of Nebraska, gasohol in all the cases except one was priced higher, in some cases considerably higher, than was unleaded gasoline. Now that is a problem that I think the petroleum industry ought to rectify and correct because if they don't do it, I think, and I discussed this in particular with Senator Carsten, I think it is almost indefensible for us to stand up here and defend the exemption. But I do want to say this, and I am perhaps on record as being the longest defender of the exemption, but I think that it would be wrong at this time to take away the exemption and I know we cannot go on forever but I do believe that the federal exemption terminates in 1992 and I know that is a long time from 1971 when we first enacted this exemption. But this is a new industry and it is one which has had its share of growth pains and I would hope that we would not send a negative signal to those institutions, those companies who are planning to build plants in Nebraska here at the present time. I want to say that I personally have not been able to encourage the farmers to build plants as I had hoped they would. It is a source of embarrassment and of great disappointment to me. I think the farmers have made a serious mistake in not investing in the ownership and the construction and operation of grain alcohol plants but they have chosen their course and I have no recourse, of course, except to live with it. One day there will be someone who will complain because the farmer must sell their grain cheap to the alcohol plant and buy it back high and that is the course they have chosen. I think, however, that those companies and those investors who have decided to try to build an alcohol plant ought to have the assurance that we will not jerk out from under them the exemption at this